

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 L-03 SY-10 DEAE-00 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 COA-02

DRC-01 /060 W

----- 126944

P R 182026Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4630

INFO CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FLA

COMDT COGARD WASHDC

UNCLAS NASSAU 1335

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR PFOR BF

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CASE

REF: NASSAU 1329

1. LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 17, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM COAST GUARD MIAMI (INTELLIGENCE) REPORTING THE CG SHIP COURAGEOUS PRESENTLY ON PATROL IN THE VICINITY OF ANGUILLA CAY, WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE A ROUTINE BOARDING OF THE US F/V GILMA I. THE GILMA I HAD EVADED THE COAST GUARD VESSEL BY TAKING SANCTUARY IN THE SHALLOW WATER OF ANGUILLA CAY, WITHIN BAHAMIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND BEGAN UNLOADING AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF BARRELS.

2. THE ACTION OF THE GILMA I GENERATED COAST GUARD SUSPICION. THE OFF-LOADING OF BARRELS INCREASED THEIR SUSPICION.

3. BECAUSE THE GILMA I HAD TAKEN SANCTUARY IN BAHAMIAN WATERS, THE CG REQUESTED THE EMBASSY OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT TO PUT ASHORE A LANDING PARTY TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION AND TO DETERMINE THE CONTENTS OF BARRELS OFF-LOADED.

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4. RODNEY BAIN WAS CONTACTED BY THE EMBASSY AND OBTAINED THE

PERMISSION REQUESTED. BAIN REQUESTED IN TURN HE BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPED. THIS INFORMATION WAS PASSED TO CG MIAMI.

5. CG MIAMI DUTY OFFICER CONTACTED EMBASSY OFFICER LATE IN THE EVENING AND INFORMED HIM THAT THE BARRELS DISCUSSED ABOVE CONTAINED AN ESTIMATED 3,000 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA. THIS ESTIMATE WAS INCREASED TO 8,000 POUNDS LATER IN THE EVENING. CG MIAMI REQUESTED THAT THE EMBASSY OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM THE AHAMIAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE AN ARREST IN BAHAMIAN WATERS IF THE SITUATION PRESENTED ITSELF.

6. EFFORTS TO CONTACT GCOB OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO GRANT THE PERMISSION WERE FRUITLESS AT 11 P.M., AND THE EFFORT WAS CALLED OFF. EMBASSY TOOK THE POSITION THAT WITHOUT GCOB APPROVAL THE EMBASSY COULD NOT AUTHORIZE AN ARREST WITHIN BAHAMIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS.

7. CONTACT WITH BAIN WAS MADE AT 0900 THIS MORNING. HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE EVENTS AS THEY TOOK PLACE AND INFORMED OF THE 8,000 POUND ESTIMATE. HE WAS ALSO ASKED AT THIS TIME FOR PERMISSION TO MAKE AN ARREST AS DISCUSSED ABOVE. BEFORE A REPLY TO THE REQUEST WAS RECEIVED, AT THE REQUEST OF THE COAST GUARD THE REQUEST WAS WITHDRAWN. IT WAS IN THE CONVERSATION WITH BAIN AT 0900 SEPTEMBER 18 THAT THE QUESTION WHO (US OR GCOB) HAD THE RIGHT TO TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT SUBSEQUENT TO ARREST WAS RAISED (SEE NASSAU 1329).

8. SUBSEQUENT TO THE DISPATCH OF NASSAU 1329, DEA'S MIAMI FIELD OFFICE CONTACTED EMBASSY TO REPORT THE EMBASSY'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN RECEIVED, THE F/V GILMA I HAD RENDEZVOUSED WITH A "CIGARETTE" BOAT, AND THAT DEA WANTED EMBASSY TO RENEW REQUEST TO GCOB FOR AUTHORITY TO MAKE ARREST.

9. WHILE AWAITING WORD FROM GCOB, EMBASSY AGAIN CONTACTED BY DEA WITH A REQUEST THAT EMBASSY AUTHORIZE COURAGEOUS TO TRY TO PICK UP ADDITIONAL OFF-LOADED BARRELS BEFORE THEY WERE REACHED BY "CIGARETTE" BOAT. RELAYING ON PERMISSION GIVEN PREVIOUSLY, (PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE), EMBASSY AUTHORIZED ATTEMPT TO PICK UP BARRELS, UNDERLINING THAT GCOB PERMISSION TO MAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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ARREST NOT YET GIVEN.
SPIERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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